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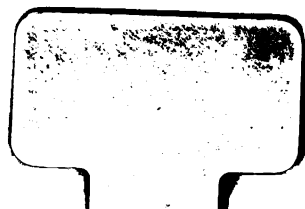
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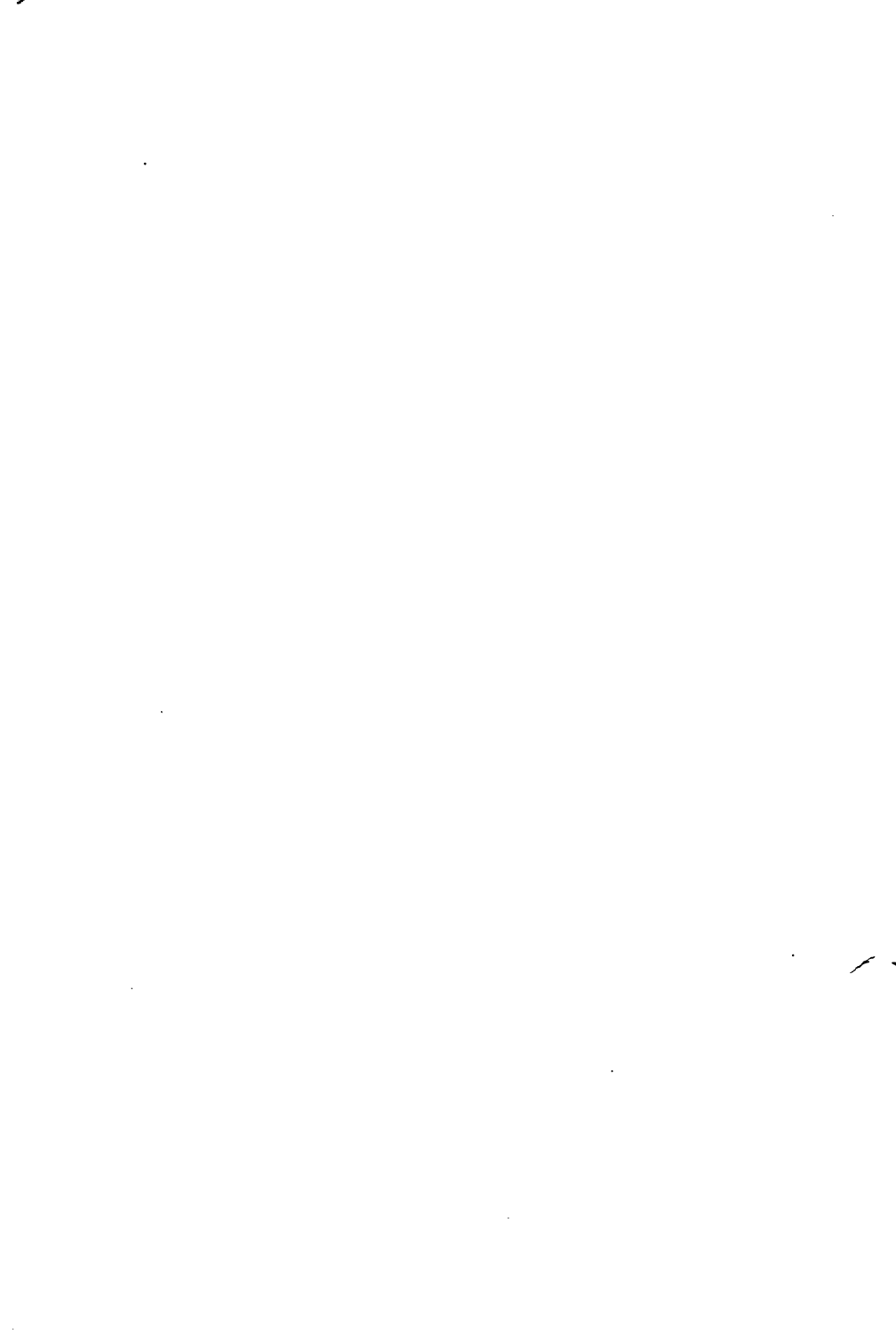
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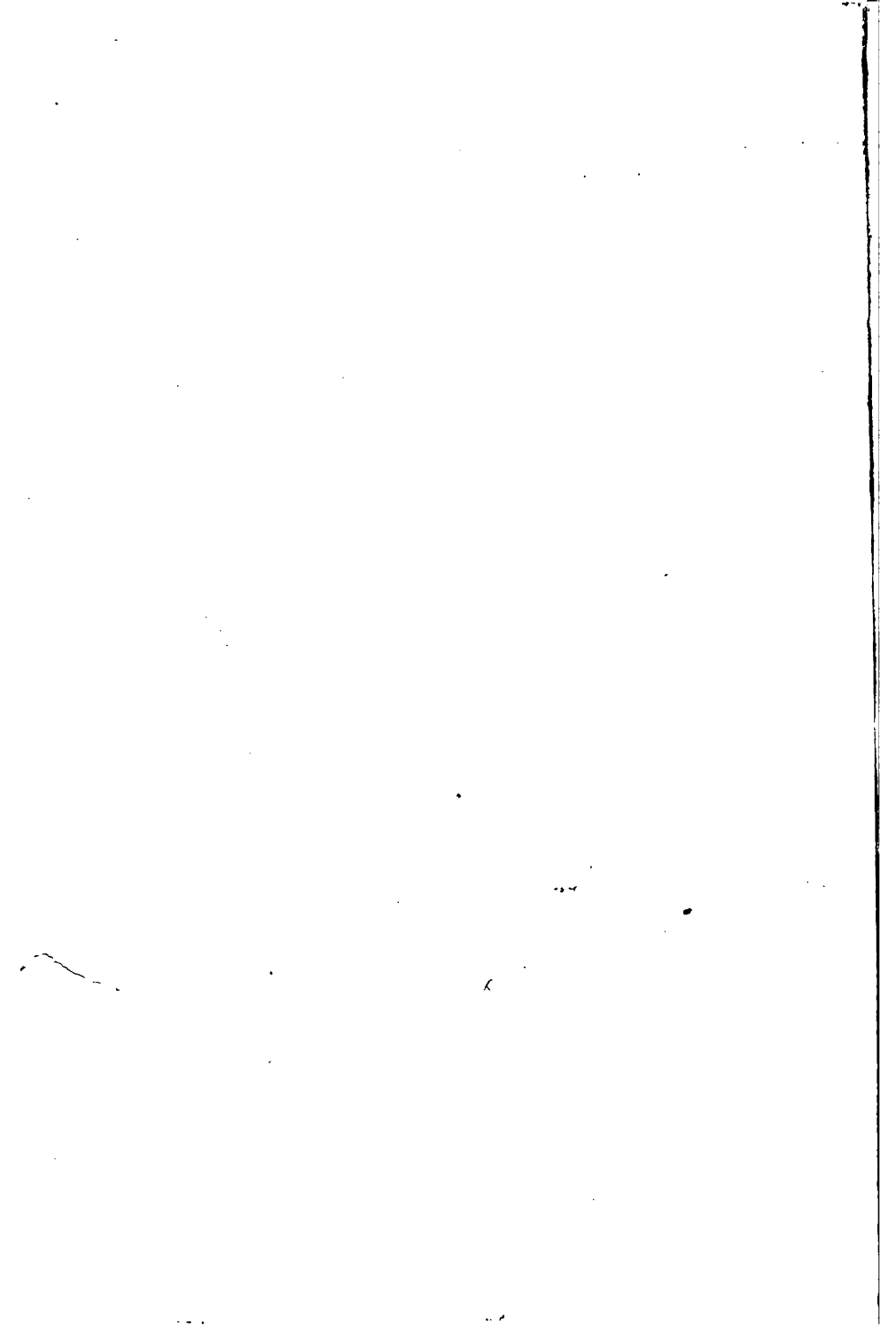
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# Denham Tracts;

OR,

A few

## Pictures of the Olden Time,

IN CONNEXION WITH

The North of England.

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"It is my fancy to collect those things,  
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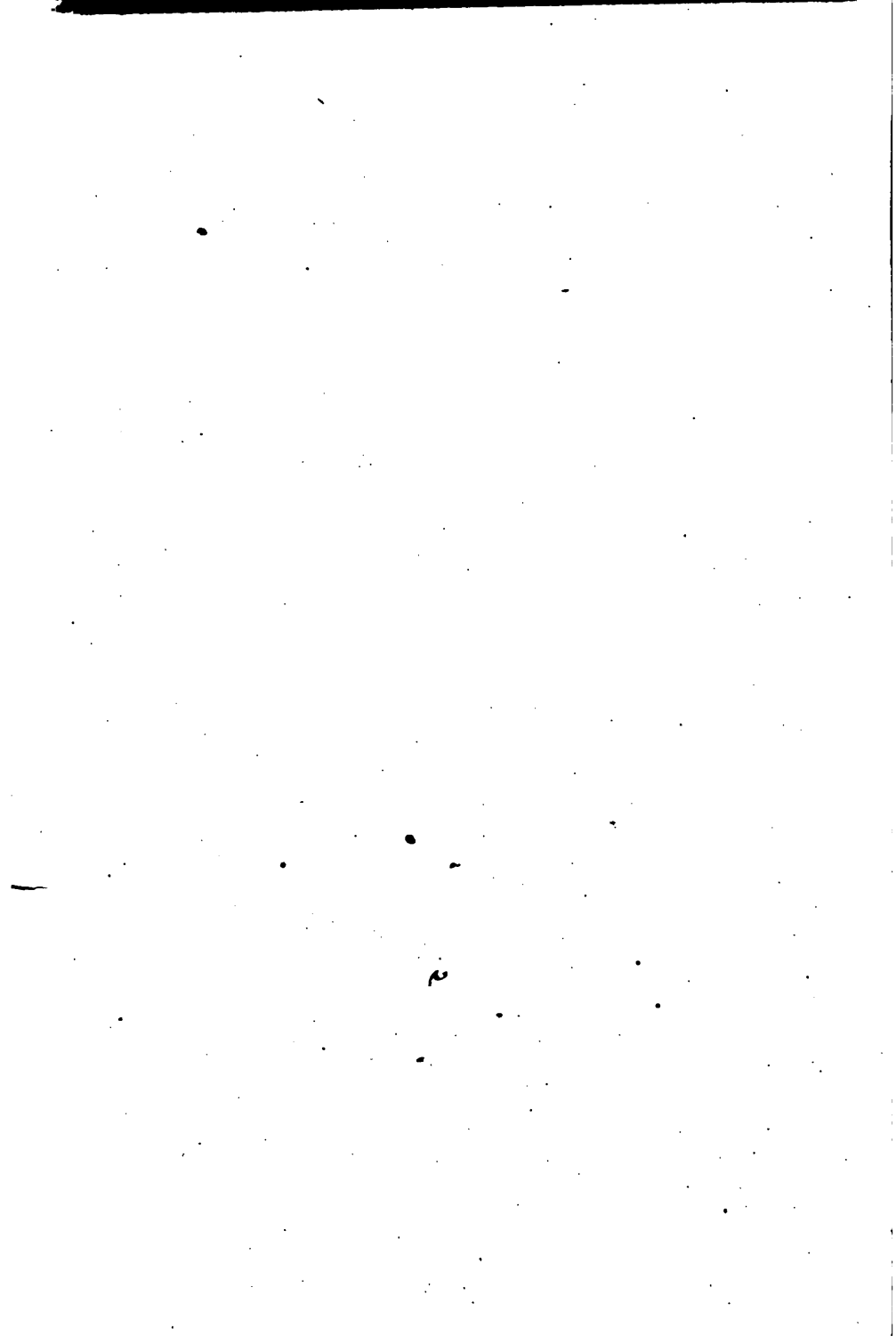
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*Fairyology & Natural History.*

Richmond, in com: Chor.

IMPRINTED BY JOHN BELL,  
IN FINKLE STREET.

*( Only 50 copies printed )*



A FEW

**Fragments of Fairpology,**

SHEWING ITS CONNECTION

WITH

**Natural History.**



Ed. Bungin:

IMPRINTED BY WILL. DUNCAN AND SON, IN SADDLER STREET.

M.DCCC.LIX.





## A Few Fragments of Fairy Folk Lore.

"The naturalists of the dark ages owed many obligations to our *Fairies*, for whatever they found wonderful and could not account for, they easily got rid of by charging it to their account."—*Brand's Pop. Ant.* (Ch. Knight and Co.) Vol. 2., p. 285, note 15.

"My grandmother has often told me of *Fairies* dancing upon our green, and that they were little creatures clothed in green."  
—Round about our Coal Fire, p. 42.

"But now can no man see non *Elves* mo."—CHAUCER.

THE not yet wholly exploded belief in *Fairies, Fays, and Elves*, still closely connects itself with,—

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Fairy Slippers.               | 32 Fairy Bourns.               |
| 2 Fairy Stones.                 | 33 Fairy Kirks.                |
| 3 Fairy Butter.                 | 34 Fairy Horns.                |
| 4 Fairy Pipes.                  | 35 Fairy Rings, or Pixy Rings. |
| 5 Fairy Cups.                   | Also called Fairy Circles, or  |
| 6 Fairy Cauldrons.              | Fairy Dances.                  |
| 7 Fairy Wells.                  | 36 Fairy Lint.                 |
| 8 Fairy Hills.                  | 37 Fairy Treasure.             |
| 9 Fairy Rings.                  | 38 Fairy Darts.                |
| 10 Fairy Money.                 | 39 Fairy Faces.                |
| 11 Elf Locks.                   | 40 Fairy Groats.               |
| 12 Elf Shots.                   | 41 Pixy Puffs.                 |
| 13 Fairy Cakes.                 | 42 Pixy Seats.                 |
| 14 Fairy Javelins.              | 43 Pixy Stools.                |
| 15 Fairy Kettles.               | 44 Fairy Nips.                 |
| 16 Fairy Loaves.                | 45 Elf Kirks.                  |
| 17 Fairy Mushroom.              | 46 Fairy Caves, Fairy Coves,   |
| 18 Elf Arrows.                  | Fairy Holes, Fairy Parlours.   |
| 19 Puck Fists.                  | 47 Pixsey's Grindstones.       |
| 20 Fairy Flax.                  | 48 Puck Needles.               |
| 21 Fairy Bells.                 | 49 Robin Goodfellow's Louse.   |
| 22 Fairy Fingers.               | 50 Elf's Glove.                |
| 23 Fairy Heads, or Colpixy      | 51 Fairy Sickness.             |
| Heads.                          | 52 Fairy Lanthorn.             |
| 24 Elf Fire.                    | 53 Fairy Pools.                |
| 25 Elf Knots.                   | 54 Elf-bore.                   |
| 26 Fairy Saddles.               | 55 Fairy Hammers.              |
| 27 Fairy Sparks, or Shell-fire. | 56 Fairy Rades.                |
| 28 Fairy Stools.                | 57 Fairy Music.                |
| 29 Fairy Mills.                 | 58 Fairy-struck.               |
| 30 Fairy Kidnies.               | 59 Fairy Sabbath.              |
| 31 Fairy Knows, or Hills.       | 60 Fairy Child.                |

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. \* \* \* \* \*

2. *Encrinites* and the *Entrochi*.

3. *Tremella mesenterica*. A substance occasionally found after rain on rotten wood, or fallen timber; in consistency and colour it is much like genuine *butter*. It is a yellow gelatinous matter, supposed by the country people to fall from the clouds. Hence its second popular name, of *s'ar-jelly*.

4. Small *Smoking Pipes* of an antient and clumsy form, continuously met with in gardens and tillage fields in the North of *England*. They are also met with in *Scotland*, where they are called *Fech pipes*; and in *Ireland*, in the immediate localities of *Danish forts*, where they are called *Dane pipes*.

5. The *Luck of Eden Hall* is a *cup* of this genus.

† This name is also given to small stones, perforated by friction, and believed to be the workmanship of *Elves*.

6. See an account of a *Fairy's Cauldron*, in *Aubrey's Nat. Hist. and Ant. of the Co. Surrey*, iii. 396. This vessel is of extraordinary size and hammered out of a single piece of copper.

7. The *well* near *Eden Hall, Cumberland*, from the brink of which the *cup* was snatched by the butler, is of this class of springs.

8. I have been informed by an old native of *Bishopston, co. Durham*, that the singular hill existing there was in his days of childhood called the *Fairy Hill*.

9. These *rings* are, in accordance with popular local mythology, caused during the festive meetings of the *Merrie Fayes* when dauncing by moonlight, to ye musique of *Robin Goodfellowe's pipes*.

You demi-puppets, that

By moonshine do the green sour ringlets make,

Whereof the ewe not bites; and you whose pastime

Is to make midnight mushrooms.

*Prospero*.—The Tempest.

10. Found treasure. *Shakespeare* notices this olden superstition,—

"This is *Fairy-gold*, boy, and 'twill prove so. We are lucky, boy, and to be so still requires nothing but secrecy."

—*Winter's Tale*.

See also *Massinger's Fatal Dowry*, act iv. sc. 1.

11.—“His haire are curl’d and full of *Elves-locks*, and nitty for want of keming.” *Wits Miserie, or the Devils incarnat of this Age*. By Thomas Lodge. 4to Lond., 1596., p. 62. Another old author describes it as “a hard matted or clatted lock of hair in the neck.”

12.—The heads of antient arrows or spears. They occur in abundance in some parts of *Scotland*. They are formed of flint, about an inch long and half an inch broad. *Vallency* says the peasants in *Ireland* wear them about their necks set in silver, as an amulet against being *elfsh* it.

There is also a disease in horned cattle, known by this name, which consists in an over-distention of the first stomach, from the swelling of clover and grass, when eaten with the morning dew upon it. The complaint is popularly believed to be produced by the stroke of an *Elf Shot*, or *Arrow*.

13.—A disease consisting of a hardness of the side in the ages of superstition was so called.

14.—Local mythology says that a *Fairy Javelin* was in the old times preserved at *Middridge Hall*, in the county of *Durham*.

15.—The same as number *six*.

16.—Fossil *echini*. Also known as *Fairy-faces*.

17.—A species of *agaric*. The same with *Fairy-stools*.

18.—The same as number *twelve*.

19.—A kind of fungus, vulgo a *fuz-ball*. The same with *pixy-puffs*.

20.—The purging flax—*Linum catharticum*. The same with *Fairy-lint*.

21.—The flower of the *Fox-glove*; which name is said to come from *Fairy-folkes-glove*. My friend, Mr Hardy, of *Penmanshiel*, says “the word is from the A. S. *Foxes-dife, foxeclofe, foxesglofa, foxesglofe*.”

22.—Perhaps *Fox-glove* bells.

23.—Fossil *Sea-urchins*.

24.—The *ignis fatuus* was antiently called *Elf-fire*. An old tract bears the title “*Ignis Fatuus, or the Elf-fire of Purgatorie*,” &c. 4to. Lond. 1625.

25. The same as note *elcvin*.

26.—*Waldron* tells us of a *Fairy Saddle* in the *Isle of Man* which the natives believed to be in requisition every night. It was a stone in the likeness of a saddle. Works fol. p. 176

27.—Luminous appearances oft seen on clothes by night; also called *shell-fire*. See *Ray's E. and S. Country Words*.

28.—Mushrooms.

29—The domestic hand-mills of the *Romans*.

Also the sound made by the *wood-worm* (*Robin Good-fellow's Louse*) viewed by the vulgar as preter-natural. "The wood worm is the small brown beetle.—*Anobium striatum*." J. H.

30—Kidney beans.

31 } Scenes bearing one or other of these names are by  
32 } no means rare either in the north or south of *England*.

33—A *Fairykirk* occurs in the parish of *Caldbeck, Cumberland*.

34—Mythical *Horns* occur in several *Fairy tales*.

35—The same as note *nine*.

36—The same as note *twenty*.

37—Found treasure. See note *ten*.

38—The same with numbers *twelve* and *eighteen*, I believe. There is a curious superstitious account of one in *MSS. Addit. 481L. f. 23*.

39—See note *sixteen*.

40—A local name for certain old coins. See *Harrison's Hist. Eng. p. 218*.

41—A kind of *fungus*.

42—Natural knots in the manes of horses.

43—Toadstools.

44—Certain marks on women with child, or women that do give suck. For a curious account thereof see *Ady's Candle in the Dark, p. 129*. *Shakespeare* uses the expression *Elvisk marked*.

45—Natural caves. Occasionally rocks, somewhat isolated, assuming that form.

46—Natural caves in the earth.

47—Stone beads.

48—A common *corn weed* is so called in *Sussex*.

49—The *wood-louse*. "Cheeselyff-worme, otherwyse called Robyn godfelowe his louse, tylus." *Huot, 1552. part i. p. 6*.

50—The same, I believe, with note *twenty-one*.

51—See *Hone's Year Book. col. 1533, 4*.

52—The *glow-worm*.

53—In the shady stillness of a summer's eve Fairies took delight in bathing and sporting amongst the waters of a lonely pool, or sedgy bend of some rippling brook.

In some parts of the county of Northamptonshire there are ponds which, from this circumstance, receive the name of *Fairy pools*.

54.—A hole in a piece of wood, out of which a knot has dropped, or been driven, by the superstitious viewed as the operation of the *Fairies*.

55.—A species of stone hatchet.

56.—This grand annual festival occurred on the first day of May.

57.—See *Waldron's Isle of Man*, p. 72.

58.—The *Paralysis* is, or rather perhaps was, so called.

59.—*Wednesday* is the *Fairies* sabbath or holiday.

60.—A *changling*. These children were little, backward of their tongue, and seemingly idiots.

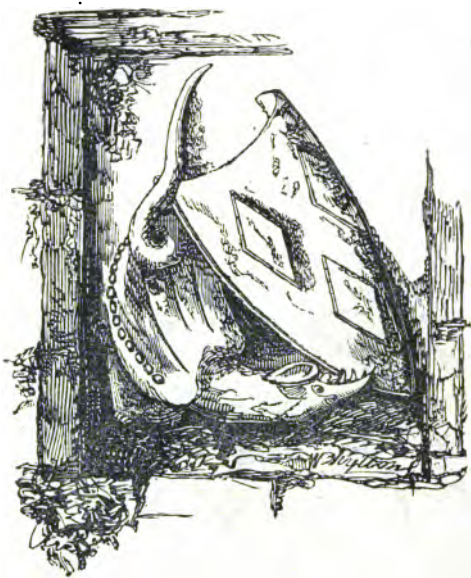
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**Publici: Privati: Juris.**

**Denham Tracts;**  
OR,  
A few  
**Pictures of the Olden Time,**  
IN CONNEXION WITH  
**The North of England**  
AND  
**Isle of Man.**

---

"It is my fancy to collect those things,  
For they amuse me in my moody hours."

*Proverbs Relating to  
Fairies, Witches & Gipsies.*

Imprinted by GEORGE & BOUCHIER, RICHARDSON, at the Sign of the River-god Tyne,  
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Typographical Society, both of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

---

1851.  
*Only fifty Cops.*



To  
Every Individual  
Fairy Witch and Gipsy  
From the Day of  
the  
Witch of Endor  
Down to that of  
Billy Dawson  
the  
Wise Man of Stokesley  
lately defunct  
This Tract is Inscribed.

*Of Fairies Witches Gypsies  
My nourice sang to me:  
Eua Gypsies Fairies Witches  
I alsoo syng to thee.*



**A Few Popular  
Rhymes, Proverbs, and Sayings,  
Relating to  
Fairies, Witches, & Gipsies.**

---

"Fairies, black, grey, green, and white."  
*Shakespeare.*

---

Where the scythe cuts, and the sock rives,  
No more *Fairies* and bee-bikes.

Vervain and Dill,  
Hinder *Witches* from their will.

If your whiptick's made of *rowan*,  
You may ride your nag thro' ony town.

Much about a pitch,  
Quoth the *Devil* to the *Witch*.

A hairy man's a geary man;  
But a hairy wife's a *Witch*.

Woe to the lad,  
Without a *rowan* tree gad.

—Some readings give "With a," &c.

A *Witch*-wife and an evil,  
Is three half-pence worse than the Deevil.

Hey-how for Hallow-e'en,  
When all the *Witches* are to be seen;  
Some in black, and some in green,  
Hey-how for Hallow-e'en.

Thout! tout!! a tout tout!!!  
Throughout and about.

—The cry of the *Somersetshire* Witches, when on their  
aerial travels by night. (a)

Cummer goe ye before, Cummer goe ye,  
Gif ye will not goe before, Cummer let me. (b)

—The above verses are said to have been the words of a song sung at *North Berwick*, in Lothian, accompanied by the music of a *Jew's harp*, or *trump*, which was played by *Geilles Duncan*, a servant-girl, before *CC. Witches*, who joined hands in a short dance or reel, singing these lines all the while with one voice.

*Witchy, Witchy*, I defy thee!  
Four fingers round my thumb,  
Let me go quietly by thee!!

—The anti-*Witch* rhyme used in Teesdale some lx. or lxx. years ago.

Black-luggie, Lammer-bead,  
Rowan-tree, and reed threed,  
Put the *Witches* to their speed.

—The meaning of *Black-luggie* I know not. *Lammer Bead*, a corruption of *Amber Bead*. They are still worn by a few old people in *Scotland*, as a preservation against a variety of diseases, especially asthma, dropsy, and tooth-ache. They also preserve the wearer from the effects of *Witchcraft*, as stated in the text. I have seen a twig of *Rowan-tree*, *Witch-wood*, *Quick-bane*, *Wild-ash*, *Witch-bane*, *Royn-tree*, *Mountain Ash*, *Wicken-tree*, *Wicky*, *Wiggy*, *Witchen*, *Whitty*, *Royan*, *Roun* or *Ran-tree*; also called *Wiggan*, *Witty*, *Wiggin*, *Witch-hazel*, *Roden*, *Quicken*, or *Roan-tree*, (c) which had been gathered on the ii. of *May* [observe this] wound round with some dozens of yards of *reed threed*, i.e. red thread, placed visibly in the window, to act as a Charm in keeping the *Witches* and *Boggles* from the house. So also we have:—

Rowan-ash, and reed threed,  
Keep the *Devils* fra' their speed.

Ye brade o' *Witches*, ye can do no good to yourself.

Fair they come, fair they go, and always their heels behind them.

Neither so sinful as to sink, nor so godly as to swim.

Falsar than Waghorn (*Wagner*), and he was nineteen times falsar than the Devil.

Ingratitude is worse than *Witchcraft*.

Ye're as mitch as half a *Witch*.

To milk the tether (i.e. the cow-tie).

—To carry off the milk from any one's cow, by milking a hair-tether. A piece of superstition once prevalent in *Scotland*.

Go in God's name,—so you ride no *Witches*.

Rynt (aroint) you, *Witch*,—quoth Bess Lockit to her mother.

They that burn you for a *Witch* lose all their coals.

Never talk of *Witches* on a *Friday*.

Ye're ower aude flarrand to be fraid o' *Witches*.

*Witches* are most apt to confess on a *Friday*.

*Friday* is the *Witches'* sabbath.

To hug one, as the *Devil* hugs a *Witch*.

Laughs like a *Pixy* (i.e. *Fairy*.)

As black (d) as	} a <i>Witch</i> .
As cross as	
As ugly as	
As sinful as	

Four fingers and a thumb, *Witch*, I defy thee !

Waters locked ! Waters locked !!

—A favourite *cry* of *Fairies*.

Borram ! Borram !! Borram !!!

—The *cry* of the Irish fairies, after mounting their steeds ; parallel with the *Scottish cry*,—

Horse ! Horse !! and Hattock !!! (e)

Ye're like a *Witch*, ye say your prayers backward.

So many *Gipsies*, so many smiths.

The *Gipsies* are all akin.

To live in the land of the *Fair family*.

—A *Welsh Fairy* saying.

God grant that the sweet (f) *Fairies* may put money in your shoes and sweep your house clean.

—One of the good wishes of the olden time.

He who finds a piece of money will always find another in the same place, as long as he keeps it a secret.

*Fairies* comb Goats' beards every *Friday*.

It's going on like *Stokepitch's* can.

—A *Pixy* saying, used in *Devonshire*. The family of *Stokespitch*, or *Sukespic*, resided near *Topsham* ; and a barrel of ale in their cellar had for many years continued to run freely, without being exhausted. It was considered a valuable heir-loom, and was valued accordingly, until a curious maid-servant took out the bung to ascertain the cause of this extraordinary power. On looking into the cask, she found it full of cobwebs ;



but the *Pizies*, it would appear, were offended, for on turning the cock, as usual, the ale had ceased to flow!

The common reply at *Topsham*, to the enquiry how any affair went on, was, "It's going on," &c., i.e., it was proceeding prosperously.

You're half a *Witch*, i.e. very cunning.

To laugh like *Robin Goodfellow*. (g)

Buzz! Buzz!! Buzz!!!

—In the middle of the xvi. cent., if a person waved his hat, or bonnet, in the air, and cried *Buzz!* three times, under the belief that by this act he would take away the life of another, the *old law* and *law-makers* considered the person so *saying* and *acting*, to be worthy of *death*, he being a murderer in intent, and having dealings with *Witches*.

I wish I was as far from God, as my nails are from dirt.

—A *Witches* prayer whilst she was in the act of cleaning her nails.

All my losses and crosses go alongst the door.

*Wednesday* is the *Fairies* sabbath, or holiday.

She's like a *Witch*; scratch till the blood come, and she cannot hurt you.

A *Witch* is afraid of her own blood.

A *Wendle Forest Witch*.

A *Lancashire Witch*.

A *Witch* cannot greet, i.e. weep.

One of the *Faw gang*.

Worse than the *Faw gang*.

—The *Faws* are a *species* of *Gipsies*. It is supposed that they acquired this appellation from *Johnnie Faw*, Lord and Earl of *Little Egypt*; with whom *James iv.* and *Q. Mary*, Sovereigns of *Scotland*, saw not only the propriety, but, also, necessity, of entering into special treaty.

"*Francis Heron*, King of the *Faws*, bur. [Jarrow] xiii. Jan., 1756."

*Sharp's Chron. Mir.*

To laugh like *Old Bogie*.

He caps *Bogie*.

—Amplified to—

He caps *Bogie*, *Bogie* capt *Redcap*, and *Redcap* capt *Old Nick*.

## Addenda.

To be *Hag* [or *Witch*] ridden.

See *Telfer's Tales and Ballads*. "Hitches of Birt-  
ton; a Northumberland Tradition." London. 1852.  
*Keightley's Fairy Mythology*, p. 332. London. 1850.  
*Nightmare*. A *Spirit*, or *Hag* of the Night.

To Play the *Puck*.

An *Irish* saying, parallel with the *English*—To Play the  
*Deuce*, or *Devil*. *Keightley's Fairy Mythology*.

Has got into *Lobs Pound* [or *Pond*].

That is into the *Fairies Pinfold*. *Ibid*.

Pinch like a *Fairy*.

"Pinch them, arms, legs, backs, shoulders, sides, and  
shins."

*Merry Wives of Windsor*.

He's got *Piggwiggan*, vulg. *Peggy Wiggan*.

A severe fall or *Somerset* is so termed in the *B'prick*.  
The *Fairy Pigwiggan* is celebrated by *Drayton*, in his  
*Nymphidia*.

To be *Fairy* struck.

The Paralysis is, or rather perhaps was, so called.

*Fairy Mythology*.

There never has been a merry world since the *Phynod-  
dere* lost his ground.

A Manks *Fairy* Saying. See *Train's Isle of Man*, ii.  
p. 148. *Popular Rhymes &c. of the I. of Man*, p.p. 16-17.

To be *Pixey* led.

When a man has got "a wee drap ower muckle  
*whusky*," misses his way home, and gets miles out of his  
direct course, he tells a tale of *excuse*, and whiles lays the  
blame on the innocent *Pixies*.—See *Fairy Myth*. p. 300.

The *Fairies* lanthorn.

That is the *Glow-worm*.

God speed you *Gentlemen*.

When an *Irish* peasant sees a cloud of dust sweeping  
along the road, he raises his hat and breathes forth the  
above *blessing* in behoof of ye company of invisible *Fairies*  
who he believes to have caused it. *Ibid*, p.p. 363-4.

The *Phooka* have dirtied the Blackberries. *Ibid.* Said when the fruit of the *Bramble* is spoilt through age at the end of the season. In the *N. of Eng.* we say, the *Devil* has set his foot on the *Bumblekites*.

*Fairy, fairy*, bake me a bannock, and roast me a collop,  
And I'll give ye a spurtle aff my gad end.

Spoken three times by the *Clydesdale* peasant, when ploughing, under the impression that on his getting to the end of the fourth furrow those good things will be spread forth on the grass.—*Chambers' Pop. Rhy. Scotland*, 3rd ed. p. 106.

Turn your clokes, (*v. coats*)  
For *Fairy* folkes  
Are in old okes.

I well remember that on more occasions than one, when a school boy, I have turned and worn my coat *inside out* in passing through a wood in order to avoid the good people. On "Nutting Days," those glorious red letter days in the school-boy's *Calendar*, the *Use* pretty generally prevailed. The *Rhymes* in the text are *ye Eng.* formula.—See *Keightley*, p. 291-300.

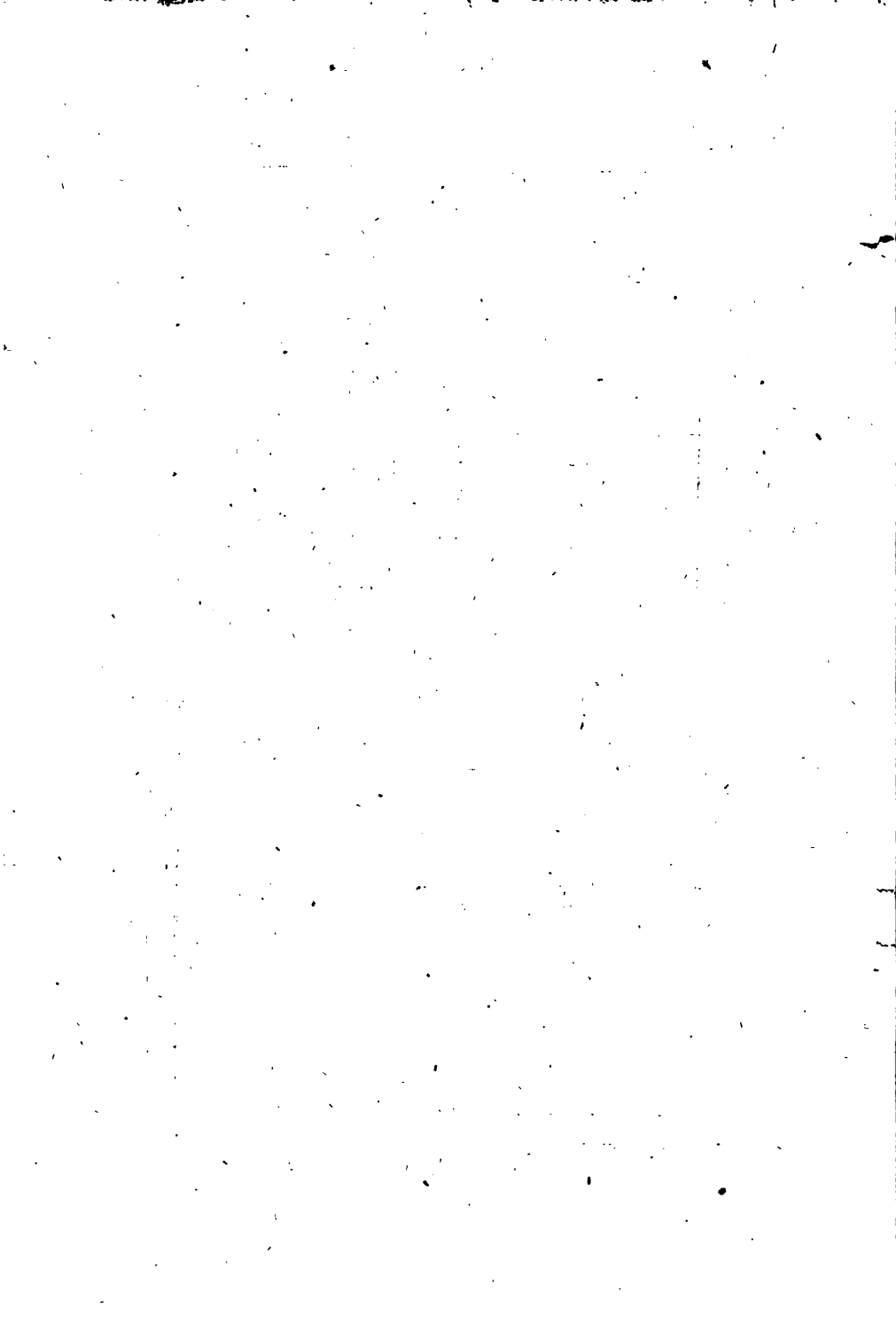
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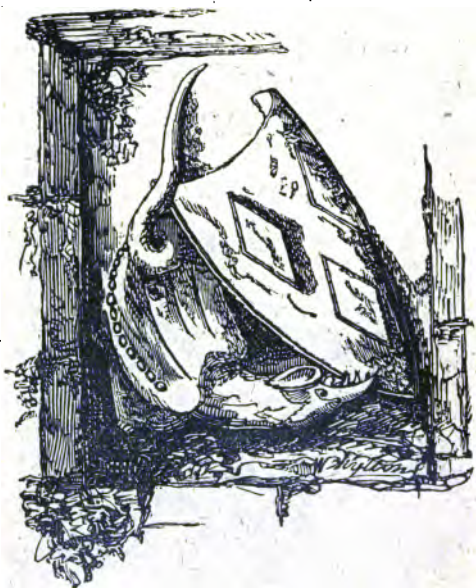
- (a) This is a sort of *Freebooting Cry*.
- (b) *Cummer*. A gossip, a young girl.
- (c) To this list may be added, *Hicken*.
- (d) *Witches* were of two kinds, *black* and *white*. The former were looked upon as the most dangerous and devilish.
- (e) This *cry* and the one immediately preceding are also of the *Reiving*, or *Freebooting Class*.
- (f) *Sweet*. *Qy*. *Swairt*—dark, tawny, swarthy.
- (g) This *Merry Fay* acted the part of *Fool*, or *Jester*, in the Court of *Oberon*, the Fairy King. And if we may believe *Gertrude at Elburg*, *Robin* was *ye* offspring of a proper young wench by a *hee-hayzie*, a King or something of that kind among them.

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